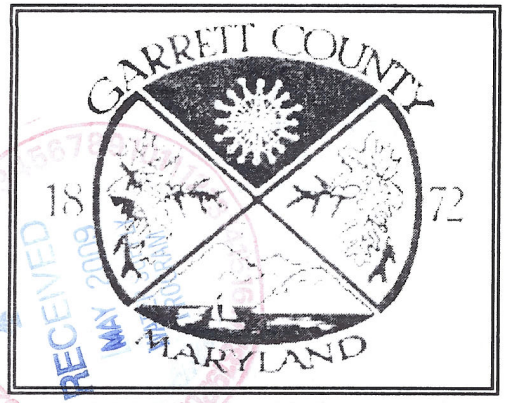

CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

Bloomington Water Plant

PWSID # 0110002

301-359-0366

In Accordance With: The U.S. Environmental Agency National Primary Drinking Water Regulation 40 CFR Parts 141 and 140

Introduction:

It is our pleasure to provide you with our 2008 Water Quality Report. This annual report is a summary of last year's water quality produced at the Bloomington water treatment plant. Included are details about where your water comes from, water quality tests results, how they compare to standards set by the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), and answers to frequently asked questions. In 2008, once again, all the water produced at the Bloomington Water Treatment Plant exceeded all state and federal guidelines for safe drinking water. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies. We hope you find this report informative and helpful. Please contact us with any questions or comments.

Where Does Your Drinking Water Originate:

The Bloomington water system obtains all of its raw water from the Savage River, which is fed by the Savage River Reservoir (*surface water*) located in Garrett County, Maryland.

How Your Water is Treated:

Surface water treatment plants are designed to take a raw water source of variable quality and produce a consistent high quality finished water. Multiple treatment processes are provided in series to remove turbidity in addition to removing and inactivating protozoan cysts and other microorganisms. Each process represents a barrier to prevent passage of cysts and other microorganisms through the plant. At the Bloomington Water Filtration Plant, the barriers include chemical treatment, flocculation, sedimentation, filtration and disinfection.

Testing Parameters:

The Bloomington Water System analyzes its finished drinking water for all parameters outlined in the National Primary Drinking Water Regulation 40 CFR Parts 141 and 142 unless a waiver has been granted by Maryland Department of the Environment, Water Management Administration. The system also analyzes for many unregulated chemical compounds. The Water Quality Data table on the back shows all of the contaminants detected in Bloomington's drinking water between January 1 and December 31, 2008 unless dated otherwise.

Source Water Assessment:

The Garrett County Public Utilities has received from the Maryland Department of the Environment, Water Management Administration, Water Supply Program, a Final Source Water Assessment for the Bloomington Water System. This report is available for your review upon request to the Garrett County Department of Public Utilities, (301) 334 - 6976. A susceptibility analysis indicates that pathogenic bacteria, protozoa, virus, and turbidity are contaminants of concerns.

General Drinking Water Information:

The sources of drinking water (both tap and bottled) include rivers, lakes, streams, reservoirs, springs and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water include microbial contaminants, inorganic contaminants, pesticides and herbicides, organic chemical contaminants and radioactive contaminants. To ensure tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.
Drinking water, including bottled water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800-426-4791).

The Bottom Line:

Last year your tap water met all drinking water standards. However, some individuals may be more vulnerable than the general population to contaminants in drinking water. Immuno-compromised individuals such as those with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/Aids or other immune system disorders, some elderly and infants may be particularly at risk from infections. Those individuals should seek advice about drinking water from their health care provider. USEPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the USEPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800-426-4791).

For More Information:

Please contact the Garrett County Department of Public Utilities at 301-334-6983 or the Laboratory Director at 301-387-6162 for additional information regarding the data in this report. The Board of Garrett County Commissioners holds regularly scheduled public meetings every Tuesday at 9:00am. The public meeting room is located in the Court House at 203 South 4th Street, Oakland, MD. Please call to schedule your topic on the agenda for discussion at any regularly scheduled meeting.

LEAD IN DRINKING WATER

"If present elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The Department of Utilities is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your drinking water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 or at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead."

WATER QUALITY DATA TABLE

Regulated Contaminants	Units	Bloominton Water	Highest Level Allowed MCL	Ideal Goal MCLG	Sample Date	Typical Sources of Contaminant
Selenium	ppb	7	50	50	Sep-08	errosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines
Lead	ppb	3	AL = 15	0	Dec-08	corrosion of household plumbing systems
Copper	ppm	0.053	AL = 1.3	1.3	Dec-08	corrosion of household plumbing systems
Nitrates	ppm	1.0	10	10	Aug-08	run-off from fertilizer and leaching from septic tanks
Tubidity max ***	NTU	0.221	TT =2 ntu max		Feb-08	soil runoff
% Turbidity <0.5 NTU	%	100%	TT < 0.3 ntu 95%			
Haloacetic Acids	ppb	10.72	60	n/a	See Footnote	by-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes	ppb	18.55	100	n/a	See Footnote	by-product of drinking water chlorination
Barium	ppm	0.04	2	2	Sep-08	Discharge from drilling waste and metal refineries. Erosion of natrual deposits
Unregulated Contaminants						
Sodium	ppm	11.5	not regulated		Sep-08	
Aluminum	ppm	0.12	not regulated		Aug-08	

Regulated Contaminants	1st quarter 2007	2 nd quarter 2007	3rd quarter 2007	4 th quarter 2007	Foot Note
Haloacetic Acids	6.01	6.94	19.31	10.62	Comlpiance is based on a running annual average. The annual average is shown in the table above. Highlighted are the lowest and highest values detected.
Total Trihalomethanes	10.52	14.74	20.56	28.38	Comlpiance is based on a running annual average. The annual average is shown in the table above. Highlighted are the lowest and highest values detected.

The Maryland Dept. of the Environment requires monitoring for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though representative, is more than one year old.

***Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system. Turbidity has no health effects. However, turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites which can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea and associated headaches.

Unregulated contaminants are those for which the EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist EPA in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water and weather future regulation is warranted.

VIOLATIONS: The Bloomington Water Plant failed to deliver the annual Consumer Confident Report to MDE by July 1, 2007. The report was received by MDE on July 15, 2008.

Terms and Units Defined:

NTU – Nephelometric Turbidity Unit:
Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water.

TT - Treatment Technique:
A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

AL - Action Level:
The concentration of a contaminant, which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements for the water system.

ppm - parts per million:
Corresponds to one penny in $10,000.

ppb - parts per billion:
Corresponds to one penny in $10,000,000.

MCL - Maximum Contaminant Level:
The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using best available treatment technology.

MCLG - Maximum Contaminant Level Goal:
The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

pCi/l - picocuries per liter:
A measure of radioactivity.